Year	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated
	Haryana	21
	Bihar	125
	Total	2198
2003-04	Bihar	314
	Uttar Pradesh	398
	Uttaranchal	5
	Andhra Pradesh	1699
	Orissa	39
	Rajasthan	10
	Total	2465
2004-05	Bihar	223
Upto 16.3.05	Madhya Pradesh	265
	Orissa	19
	Uttar Pradesh	41
	Karnataka	64
	Jharkhand	196
	TOTAL	808

Optimizing of EPFO Investments

1765. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EPFO has appointed a Mumbai-based investment consultant to suggest methods for optimizing the EPFO investment;

(b) whether Government had considered, consultant bid evaluation, the availability of expertise oninvestment matters, within Government like RBI, SEBI etc. and other financial institutions; and

(c) if so, whether Government discovered that it did not have the required expertise in-house?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Board of Trustees, Employees, Provident Fund had invited open bids through advertisements in the leading news papers, for one time study on various aspects relating to investment management of EPFO funds. Final decision was taken by CBT, EPF after conducting objective comparative analysis of various contenders.

Enterprises in Unorganised/Informal Sector

1766. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of setting up of National Commission to suggest measures to promote enterprises in the unorganized and informal sectors; and

(b) if so, the mandate proposed to be given to the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised/Informal Sector on 20.09.2004 to recommend measures considered necessary for bringing about improvement in the productivity of these enterprises, generation of large scale employment opportunities on a sustainable basis, enhancing the competitiveness of the sector in the emerging global environment, linkage of the sector with institutional framework in areas such as credit, raw material, infrastructure, technology upgradation, marketing and formulation of suitable arrangements for skill development. The strategy for addressing the problems of urban unemployment is covered by the terms of reference formulated for the Commission.